Equal Rights

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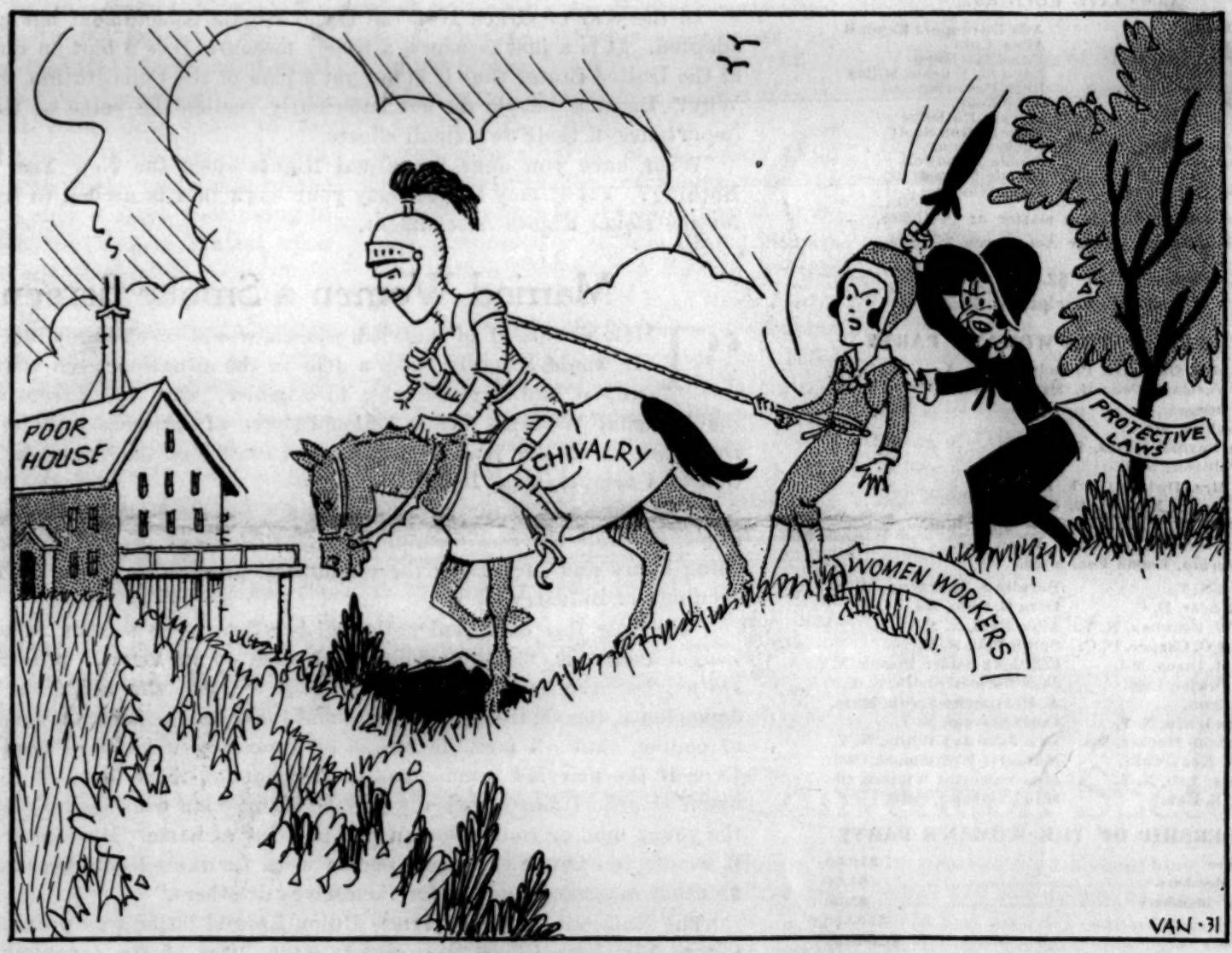

"Over the Hills to the Poor House"

(With apologies to Brown, Cartoonist of the New York Herald Tribune)

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929, by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY, Pennsylvania.

Tempus Fugit

IT IS hard to believe it, but a year has slipped by since our last issue. It was then 1931, and now it is 1932, which goes to show what a difference a few little days can make in the passage of time upon this planet. One moment it was 1931; then the bells rang out, and lo! it was 1932, and once more we were embarked upon the eternal pilgrimage. Only a second's difference, it may be said, and to this we must agree, but it was a difference sufficient to change the calendar.

It is precisely that tiny difference that in the end tips any scale. A pound is registered; then as increments in weight are added the two-pound mark is gradually reached. Suddenly the scale tips; two pounds. A pretty picture, and a true one, appropriate to New Year's. One moment the Old Year, the next moment the New Year; meanwhile the world dances or sleeps and goes upon its way.

Around the corner Father Time with his scythe stands waiting. He knows. A swing of his strong, old arms and the stalk falls. The first breath or the last breath, it makes no difference; life itself tips the scales in a moment.

In the year of Grace 1932 the Equal Rights Amendment has not yet been adopted. It is a just measure, a timely measure, it is a blot on the 'scutcheon of the United States that it is not yet a part of the Constitution, but it is not. Why? Because people do not sufficiently realize the value of time and the importance of their own small efforts.

What have you done for Equal Rights since the New Year was born? Nothing? Yet it may be precisely your work that is needed to tip the scales for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Married Women a Smoke Screen

"THE dismissal of married women would not remedy unemployment. It would scarcely make a dent in the situation, even were it not too unjust and impracticable to consider," says the Executive Board of the National Women's Trade Union League of America in a letter sent on December 21 to Mr. Walter S. Gifford, Director of the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief.

"The married-woman question must not become a smoke screen," the letter urges, "to hide the real unemployment problems of providing work by shortening hours and increasing the consumers' purchasing power by sharing the earnings of industry.

"The only fair dismissal policy with reference to women, as to men," the League contends, "is to consider each case on its merit. Not the marriage status, but the economic status of the worker, the need, the number of dependents, the service given, etc., should determine the preference, providing, of course, that all possible means of spreading work have been exhausted. Even if the married woman has no dependents, there is no more reason for dismissing her than for dismissing the young man who has no dependents, or the young man or young woman who is living at home. Married or unmarried, it is safe to assume that most people work for their living because they have no other means of support for themselves or others."

The National Women's Trade Union League letter was prompted, according to Elisabeth Christman, secretary-treasurer of the organization, by the persistent cropping up of recommendations to dismiss married women in public service and in other occupations, here and throughout the country.

To illustrate the futility of the proposal the League letter points out that a third of the married women gainfully occupied are in domestic service, and a fifth are in agriculture. "Does anyone believe that these women are filling jobs that men would take or could get? Few men, moreover, are prepared to fill the places of the thousands of married women secretaries, typists, telephone operators, dressmakers, milliners and saleswomen.

"The employment of married women cannot be considered apart from the fact that the maximum average annual wage of $1,350 for the head of the family is inadequate for family support. As one married woman in this low-wage group said, 'It always takes two to support our family. Now that our oldest daughter is working, I can stay at home.'

"Of the reasons why married women work: to support dependents, for example, aged parents or relatives; to eke out the low earnings of the husband; to support the family when the husband is unemployed; to help buy a home which the family would lose without the combined earnings; of these government studies show that the most important is that the husband's earnings are too low for family support."

Nationality Bill Introduced

By Burnita Shelton Matthews

ON DECEMBER 11 Representative John L. Cable of Ohio, tireless advocate of equality for men and women in the laws relating to nationality, citizenship and naturalization, introduced a bill, known as H. R. 5489, to remove the remaining discriminations against women.

The first two sections of the bill place men and women on an equal footing with regard to the transmission of nationality to a minor child.

The existing law may be stated as follows:

A legitimate child born outside of the jurisdiction of the United States of a father having United States nationality at the time of the child's birth, has United States nationality, provided that the father has at some time prior to the child's birth resided in the United States. In order to receive the protection of the United States such a child, continuing to reside outside the United States, upon reaching the age of eighteen years must record at an American consulate its intention to become a resident and remain a citizen of the United States, and must take the oath of allegiance to the United States upon reaching majority. A woman who has United States nationality, however, and who is married to a foreigner cannot give United States nationality to her legitimate child born outside the jurisdiction of the United States.

An illegitimate child born outside the jurisdiction of the United States of a mother having United States nationality at the time of the child's birth has United States nationality, provided that the mother has at some time prior to the child's birth resided in the United States. In order to receive the protection of the United States such a child, continuing to reside outside of the United States, upon reaching the age of eighteen, must record at an American consulate its intention to become a resident and remain a citizen of the United States, and must take the oath of allegiance to the United States upon reaching majority. A man who has United States nationality, however, cannot give that nationality to an illegitimate child born outside the jurisdiction of the United States.

The naturalization of a foreign man as a citizen of the United States carries with it the naturalization of his minor child born outside the United States, from the time when such minor child begins to reside permanently in the United States. The naturalization of a foreign woman, however, as a citizen of the United States does not carry with it the naturalization of her minor child born outside the United States, in those cases where the father and mother are living together and the father has not become naturalized.

The third and fourth sections of the bill repeal provisions whereby an alien wife and minor children under certain circumstances may become naturalized under the declaration of intention of a deceased or insane husband and father. Since marriage no longer affects the nationality of a woman, the provisions in question are deemed obsolete.

The fifth and final section of the bill declares:

"Hereafter there shall be no distinction based on sex in the law and practice relating to nationality, citizenship and naturalization, and to that end any right now enjoyed in the matter of nationality, citizenship and naturalization by one sex shall be equally available to the other under like circumstances. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to repeal the provisions for resumption by a woman of United States citizenship lost through marriage or by reason of the loss of United States citizenship by her husband."

The members of the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization to which the bill has been referred are: Samuel Dickstein of New York, chairman; Samuel Rutherford of Georgia, John W. Moore of Kentucky, John M. Evans of Montana, Robert A. Green of Florida, John H. Kerr of North Carolina, Lamar Jeffers of Alabama, Mell G. Underwood of Ohio, Vincent L. Palmisano of Maryland, Eugene B. Croe of Indiana, Martin Dies of Texas, Albert Johnson of Washington, J. Will Taylor of Tennessee, Arthur M. Free of California, Thomas A. Jenkins of Ohio, George J. Schneider of Wisconsin, J. Mitchell Chase of Pennsylvania, John L. Cable of Ohio, Edmund F. Cooke and Charles D. Millard of New York.

Members of the Woman's Party in the States represented by the Congressmen named are requested to write them, urging the favorable reporting of the bill at an early date.

Nicaraguan Commissioner's Convention Speech

Address Delivered by Juanita Molina de Fromen, Commissioner from Nicaragua on the Inter-American Commission of Women, Before the Biennial Convention of the National Woman's Party at the Banquet Held at the Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C., December 6, 1931.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WHEN the Director of National Activities of the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Muna Lee de Muñoz Marín asked me to address you this evening, as a member of the Inter-American Commission of Women on the subject of what the women of the Americas are going to demand at the Seventh Pan-American Conference to be held in the City of Montevideo, Uruguay, in December, 1932, two thoughts came to my mind which prompted me to accept this honor:

First it gave me the opportunity to express, in behalf of the women of the sister republics of Latin America, their deep appreciation for the splendid battle already fought to win equality of rights for the women of this continent, initiated by the National Woman's Party and carried on by their representatives in the Inter-American Commission of Women, among whom I like to mention, Dr. Alice Paul and Miss Doris Stevens. Without in any way slighting the splendid work done by other women, some of whom are present here tonight, I want to say that to my mind these two outstanding women embody the idealism of the North American woman with her courage to fight and determination to win for a just cause.

The second thought was that the Republic of Nicaragua, whose humble representative I am, should have the privilege to voice the rightful aspirations of the women of this hemisphere, as they will be presented at Montevideo. I hope that some day the women of the Americas will help and assist Nicaragua in her struggle to realize her own rightful aspirations!

It seems to me that this is a fitting occasion to give a brief sketch of the background of the Inter-American Commission of Women, as well as of the work done and to be done by it and also, to State the position which the women of this continent will take at the Seventh Pan-American Conference to be held in the city of Montevideo in December, 1932.

In 1925, at a very impressive session of the Fifth Pan-American Conference, held in Santiago de Chile, Dr. Maximo Soto Hall representative of Guatemala, with that chivalry never lacking in Latin Americans, presented to the conference a resolution to the effect that the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union include in the program of future conferences the study of the ways and means of abolish-

ing the constitutional and legal incapacities of the women of the American continent, in order that they should enjoy the same civil and political rights as men. The resolution also provided that each of the American Republics prepare a memoir on the position of women as determined by their constitutions and laws, to serve as a basis for this investigation. Although the resolution was enthusiastically passed nothing practical resulted therefrom.

It was up to the women to carry into practice the beautiful gesture made at Santiago. So, when the Sixth Pan-American Conference met in the city of Havana in 1928, the Equal Rights Treaty, drafted by Alice Paul, was presented to the conference by Doris Stevens, who was acting at that time, as chairman of the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party.

THIS remarkable treaty, the first of its kind in history to voice the aspirations of women, is as follows:

"The Contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

The general idea of this treaty was most warmly received by the conference of men and no objection to the treaty as such was voiced at the Plenary Session to which it was submitted. However, it was felt by the conference members that such a treaty could not be favorably passed upon except after a thorough study of the legal status of women of the respective countries. To this end the Inter-American Commission of Women was created with representatives appointed by the governments of the twenty-one American Republics. The object of this Commission is to present the result of such studies, with recommendations on any subject affecting women that it may see fit at the Seventh Pan-American Con-Conference.

In view of the oncoming international conference for the Codification of International Law which was scheduled to be held at the Hague in 1930, with the subject of nationality as one of the three topics on its agenda; it was considered imperative by the women, not only of this hemisphere, but also by the women of the rest of the world that any international treaty regarding nationality must under no circumstances be based upon inequality between men and women.

To prepare for The Hague Conference the members of the Inter-American Commission of Women were summoned to the city of Havana in the beginning of 1930 to take the necessary action for the presentation of their views on the subject of nationality. To that conference a most remarkable piece of legal research was submitted, consisting of a compilation of all the laws of the world on the subject of nationality as affecting women, and compiled under the leadership of Dr. Alice Paul with the assistance of her enthusiastic co-workers.

The subsequent fight at The Hague and at Geneva which is still going on is familiar to all of you.

I shall proceed with the Equal Rights Treaty. This treaty, if adopted, will secure for the women of the Americas the freedom gained by men by the Declarations of Independence and obtained with the help of women. However, men forgot what the women had done for them and denied to them the right to share in their new freedom. Only by slow and painful procedure and by constant fights have women succeeded in obtaining some of the most elementary human rights. But women are rapidly realizing that their welfare and happiness must not depend upon the whims of men and that it is as much their birth right, as that of men, to direct their own destinies.

Therefore, the women of this continent will go to the Montevideo Conference with the determination to fight their battle for freedom. In this fight, the women of Latin America will have before them the inspiring example of the mother country, Spain, whose new constitution gives Equal Rights to men and women.

THE reason why we advocate a *treaty* is that the Inter-American Commission of Women, as the name implies, is an Inter-American body, and as such, can only function internationally. Therefore, its business is not to advocate national measures any more than it is the business of any Inter-American or international body to recommend national measures. Furthermore, it is our belief that only through international action can the worldwide subjection of women be eradicated. It is recognized more and more that problems affecting the human race should be dealt with internationally rather than nationally. Particularly since the World War many such treaties have been negotiated and several of them have dealt with the status of women. The latest one came from The Hague Codification Conference of 1930 which proposed to deal unequally with men and women in regard to the problem of nationality. Others have been treaties regulating women's work by way of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, also dealing unequally with men and women; further, White Slave Conventions, etc.

We, the women of the Americas, propose and maintain, therefore, that nothing short of *equality between men and women* will satisfy our demands. We believe that a treaty guaranteeing us equality in all respects will make it impossible for any State or any international body to further legislate against our interests and will make for national legislation which will conform to the treaty, thus abolishing all discriminations against women.

Since times immemorial men have ruled the world and it cannot be said that they have been highly successful. We believe that the women have much to contribute to the welfare and happiness of the world and feel that a reform giving women Equal Rights with men is long overdue. We choose the treaty method as the shortest route to remedy this injustice. We could, of course, proceed by slow stages getting equality in each province or State of this hemisphere but this method, we believe, is not satisfactory to women.

It is needless to say that we invite all men to help us attain this goal of equality and we are greatly indebted to those men who already have joined our forces. We need the co-operation of men and women to solve the many baffling problems of today.

THE Seventh Pan-American Conference will be composed of representatives of all the Americas. We submit that never before has such an important proposal been put before a body of enlightened men representing the doctrine of democracy. Nothing that they will do or can conceive will be as immortal or as important as what we will offer them. It should be an inspiration to every true statesman to help us gain the glorious goal toward which we are striving, namely, equality of rights between men and women.

Signs of determined action on the part of the women of the Americas are far from lacking. In almost all the countries of Latin America new organizations of women are being formed, in Cuba, Dominion Republic, Chile, Brazil, etc., all demanding complete equality. We are finishing a monumental work on all the existing laws of the Americas. All of them show inequality between men and women.

Time has come to abolish without further delay this inequality, this man's exploitation of his partner, woman.

To the Sixth Pan-American Conference women went as outsiders. This time we go charged by the twenty-one governments of this hemisphere to report the result of our research. For the first time in history women will speak with authority to men empowered to act and demand from them the acceptance of the following treaty; which I will quote again:

"The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Elsie Hill at Alva Belmont House

THE worldwide financial depression has put a painful urgency in the demand for the passage by this Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment that "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," said Elsie Hill, State chairman of the National Woman's Party for Connecticut, guest of honor and speaker at a tea at Alva Belmont House given by the District of Columbia Branch on Sunday afternoon, December 13.

"Men also have felt the pinch of the economic discrimination against women, for in millions of cases where men are laid off and unable to get work at their own jobs, new groups of whole families have become entirely dependent for their very existence upon the earnings of women," she declared.

"Yet, in this situation, unemployment relief committeemen have blindly ruled that all women or all married women who are now employed shall be dismissed, assuming apparently that a jobless woman is less pitiable than a jobless man. No regard is paid to need in these rulings. Men without dependents and with private income are retained in municipal, State, and national jobs, while the rule is being set up to put out the women.

"Side by side with this obvious ruthless rule of discrimination come laws professing to protect women.

Mrs. Paul Myron Linebarger and other District officers were hostesses. Mrs. James E. Watson of Indiana, and Mrs. Porter H. Dale of Vermont, presided at the tea table.

In introducing the speaker, Laura Berrien outlined the work of Miss Hill as former national chairman of the National Woman's Party, as a nationwide leader of the suffrage campaign, and as daughter of the late Ebenezer Hill, for twenty years congressman from Connecticut.

"Women have lost jobs when they had whole families depending on them," Miss Hill said. Their husbands were looking toward them for aid. Men, women, politicians and even former protectionists now see the need for industrial equality.

"When I graduated from Vassar College more than twenty years ago, I thought that suffrage was good enough for old ladies. It was Alice Paul who first changed my point of view.

"Later I went with a group of women to visit President Wilson to ask for Woman's suffrage. When we got back to our hotel we found that the President had sent us a bunch of flowers. To have a bunch of flowers sent to a group of women who had asked for the vote instead made me a real Feminist.

"At Vassar I listened to lectures on sweatshop conditions. We were roused as zealots to go out and use our power and prestige for the betterment of helpless women and children. For years we worked to make laws which we thought they needed. We were praised for handing down 'protective' legislation.

"We did not realize that we had no right to legislate women out of their jobs. I thought that we were the ones to decide what was right for them, not they themselves.

"There are persons who still have that point of view. And it seems to me they have not grown as the National Woman's Party has grown.

"A few years ago, a waiters' strike was broken with women and Negroes. That strike could be broken by women because they were judged inferior to men and could not demand as high wages. Let protectionists remember that if the employer finds obstacles and handicaps in the employment of women he is going to say they are more trouble than they are worth.

"Progress can be made in laws for women and that progress is in equality rather than in passing laws linking women with children. Joining women with children means that women will get children's pay.

"If you believe children should be protected urge the passing of child labor laws but not protective measures for women. Get the protectionist to think of the children instead of the women.

"Economic conditions have changed the attitude toward the woman who works. The situation has altered materially. We must make industrial conditions better and more equal. And we must make women happy, not the victims of our sentimentality."

Miss Hill emphasized her point by reading from a stack of letters sent by women workers to the Woman's Party, in which the pressing need for the continuance of their job, was set forth. In particular, these letters showed the desperate result for many women if they were deprived of paid night work.

AMONG these statements were:

"I have two small children to support. My husband is out of work. I also have my father who is depending on us. He is too old to work so I find it my duty to help, but I am in favor of working nights."

"M. P."

"My mother is ill and needs the doctor which my father cannot afford, and if she happens to need me in the day time, I am there and I also work night because I cannot find a day job and, anyway, I'd rather work nights and time."

"B. K."

"I have to help support my five children as my husband is working only part time."

"K. M."

"Yes, I am in favor of night work. Father and brother work short time. I have to help support twelve."

"F. P."

"I work nights to help with household expenses. My husband's pay is not enough for there are eight to support. I am in favor of night work for women. It is the only time a married woman can work."

"E. S."

"My husband is not getting enough to support his three children. He works in a garage, if a job comes in he gets it and if not he has to go without. He has to stay nine hours a day there and some days he makes 18 cents. I don't find it a pleasure working nights, but if I don't work my children will go hungry and a mother will sacrifice and work for her little ones. My husband is also an exservice man and he had to doctor for severe headaches, he has had an examination, but never got anything out of it. So you can see I have no choice."

"M. McG."

"The reason I am working nights is this, I have no husband to support me and my baby, and my grandmother cares for her through the day, and she is dependent on me. Nightwork is more convenient for me."

"C. C."

"My husband does not earn enough to support us both. My husband is a British war veteran and suffers from a wound in his leg and gas poisoning. His pension was taken from him and told that he was a young man and he would soon get over it. He has had medical treatment here so I have no choice. I take no pleasure in working nights but its better than nothing."

"M. S."

"My husband is not working and I have two small babies and no one to look to for help."

"J. S."

"I am working because my husband is not making enough to support his family. I have four children. I am in favor of night work because I do not have to pay for the children to be kept."

"D. B."

"My husband is out of work and I have two children."

"R. R."

"I work nights because my husband is out of work, he does not make enough to support the house and two children. I am in favor of nights because it is a good time for a married woman to work."

"Y. S."

"The money that I can make will enable

me to help out at home and believe me we need it."

"M. M."

"I can't get a day job. I have to help support my family of three small children. Also I have to help my parents who are unable to get work."

"M. C."

"I have three depending on me and my husband and what he earns don't keep us, so I have got to work and can't get a day job."

"N. B."

"I have to work all the time. I cannot be changed on the morning shift and my husband don't work for quite awhile and I have a child and my mother to take care of."

"C. R."

"I have to work if I want to eat."

"F. G."

"I'm working nights because I can't get no day job. Got to work because my husband can't work, he is disabled. He is a ex-service man. He would work if he could get easy job. He can work once in a while but he can't get no job. I got to work."

"M. B."

"I have to work. My father and my mother are dead and I have to work to pay my board. I'm all alone, remember, no parent to live with and I have to eat too."

"A. D."

"I'm all alone, no folks, I can't get any day work."

"L. P."

"I'm working nights because I'm not able to find a day job and I have to support my mother, two sisters and a niece, so I can't afford to be out of a job."

"C. B."

"Regina had to beg for work because of her age but is able to deliver the goods while working nights. All idle in home but her. Five in family. Husband works a day now and then, only for Regina we would go hungry."

"R. C."

"My husband works three days a week, I work to help him out. Have two children, work nights to clothe and feed children decently. Not in favor of stopping night work."

"O. F."

"I must work. Have a baby to support and no money coming in and like night work. Do not want to stop night work."

"E. C."

"Have to work for a living. First time worked nights and liked it. I do not want night work abolished."

"J. L."

"Would rather work nights than have mother work. Do not want night work abolished."

"M. B."

"My husband doesn't work steady. We have two children. Wouldn't care for night work being abolished."

"A. F."

"Husband hasn't worked steady for two years. Only have one child but he is as good as five when it comes to eating. I do not want night work abolished."

"M. B."

"My husband is working for a very small salary and having a family to support is finding it very hard and discouraging trying to make both ends meet, so I thought the only thing for me to do was to find work and night work was the only kind offered me."

"A. B."

"My husband has been unemployed for the last 12 months. I have five children to support. I tried hard to get day work but was thankful to go nights."

"R. L."

"I have to work nights to help my husband support the family which consists of us two and six children. He was out of work over a year and he is only working short time now, so I have to do my share towards the support of the family."

"M. C."

"My husband just got operated for appendicitis. I've been married eight months ago. My mother is living with us and I'm the only one that works."

"C. L."

"I have to support my mother and three sisters. My father is dead."

"S. S."

"There is three depending on me. My husband is sick and has not worked for a few years. At present time I am the only one working. I am in favor of night work."

"E. K."

"My husband is out of work and I have an old mother, also a young boy to support."

"C. H."

"My husband was out of work almost a year and now his pays are not enough to support our five children."

"C. M."

"I have a father and mother depending on me and also have sisters at home that are out of work and cannot get it."

"L. D."

"I am a poor girl who has to pay board and can't get day work."

"T. L."

The Fight on Married Women

FROM coast to coast, the dismissal of married women from their jobs, just because they are women and are married, continues. There are eight new black marks of recent dismissal attempts to be added to the already much-spotted map of the United States.

These new threats appear in New York and California, West Virginia, New Jersey, and Washington, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and throughout the Northern Pacific Railroad system.

In Syracuse, New York, one of the most determined attacks is being made on women workers by Mayor Rolland B. Marvin. Late in November he ordered the dismissal of all married women city jobholders whose husbands earn a living wage. The definition of a "living wage" is not given, but in Philadelphia in a case to be cited later it does not seem to include "comfort."

Mayor Marvin's ruling, which became effective on December 5, affected 65 women. In announcing his plan, the Mayor stated that it was a measure toward the relief of unemployment and that he would request the Board of Education to extend his rule to married women teachers. Of workers "protected" by the Civil Service, he said that they would be asked to resign, and if they refused, he would see their positions abolished.

"If under the law," he added, "it is possible other needy qualified persons will be given the same jobs."

In Philadelphia, Civil Service Commissioner Salus saw fit, when telling of two instances where husband and wife were both working in the public school system, to comment on the families' "living in expensive apartments in Alden Park Manor."

He drew instant fire. Clarence H. Carback, who is principal of the Roosevelt Junior High and whose wife, Marion L. Carback, teaches at the Gillespie Junior High, asked:

"Aren't people to be allowed to live under decent conditions if they can?

"As for my wife's working, why shouldn't she work if she wants to and if she's a good teacher I can see no reason why a husband and a wife shouldn't work any more than a brother and sister in the same family shouldn't work."

Frederick A. Rainey, who teaches at the Gratz School and whose wife, Emily E. Rainey, is a stenographer at the Roxborough Junior High, said, "I don't think it's any of Mr. Salus's business where I live. I see no reason to make any further comment. I don't think it's worth it."

Commissioner Salus made his ill-advised comment in a letter to the Board of Education in which he asked the Board if it could not make some "equitable arrangement to alleviate the condition of normal school graduates who are forced to work in stores, as nursemaids, and as waitresses in restaurants."

On the West Coast in Seattle, the wom-

en seem to be winning their fight or at least winning a great deal of support for the fight.

Here a bill forcing all married women off the city payroll is being proposed as an amendment to the city charter and may be submitted to the people for vote at the next March election. About a hundred women are now employed by the city. The bill would also ban the employment of any more married women and force the resignation of any women who marry. The bill is sponsored by the United Veterans' Club of King County.

Women have rallied to fight the measure, and at the first hearing on the bill before the Cuoncil's Judiciary Committee sixty-three married women city workers were present with an attorney to represent them. A mass-meeting of the affected workers had been held the previous night and the decision for legal representation made them. Indications point to a larger opposing lobby drawn up against this bill than any greeting legislation in recent months.

THE Seattle *Daily Times* editorialized about the move as follows:

"The boys should have known better than to go after the jobs of the girls in the County-City Building; they have been out-talked and overwhelmed in the first open encounter to such an extent that the City Council has discreetly withdrawn from the position of umpire and dropped the notion of disturbing the status quo. If King County Commissioners are wise, they will profit by the Council's example. The girls evidently have been giving good service in their several places, and the reason advanced for giving them the gate is not altogether convincing to any thoughtful citizen.

"The domestic relations of women and men cannot fairly be used to determine their right to employment in public service, except as their efficiency may be involved. The Federal Constitution and nearly all the laws make women and men equal, whether married or single. Home ties and troubles are just as likely to make for poor work by men as by women. Even the plea that a few women be ousted to make places for war veterans isn't soundly based, since veterans already are given preference over all others in public employment.

"Of course, if everything was right in this world its work would all be done by men and its women and girls would be adequately supported in the homes. That was the old-fashioned way. But when so many men, for whatever reason, fail in that respect, women must carry on. Most of them make good in the tasks they undertake. Few employers, public or private, can be induced to believe it a duty to dismiss a competent woman solely to make place for a man of unknown qualifications."

Unfortunately, the *Times* is wrong in assuming that the Constitution of the United States makes women equal with men, but the National Woman's Party hopes to see that it does soon.

ALSO on the Pacific Coast, in Upland, California, a determined move seems underway to oust married women workers. The Board of Supervisors has requested the heads of county departments to eliminate married women as employes, and despite the hopeful and determined refusal of some department heads to "co-operate" in this elimination, the Board is seeking to enforce its request.

The Business Women's Legislative Council of California, of which Sue Brobst, valiant Equal Rights worker, is president, has been vigorously opposing the Board's plan. Una R. Winter of Upland, second vice-president of the Council, has been carrying on the fight.

Following the Boards request, the grand jury announced that it was about to investigate the employment in county offices of married women who need not depend for support on their earnings. This drew the following open letter from Miss Winter:

"I note the recently published statement that the grand jury would soon check up on the various county departments and see that certain married women employes were dismissed as a means of alleviating unemployment.

"As a taxpayer and voter of this county I protest the dismissal of any employe who is filling his or her position in a creditable and efficient manner.

"It is not good business.

"It is not fair to women who have given many years to preparation and training for their work.

"It handicaps county officers in the conduct of their work.

"In the long run it does not help unemployment; for married women who remain at home do their own laundry work, their baking and cooking, their house cleaning and dry cleaning, and much of their sewing; and this means loss of business in all these lines.

"Women are citizens the same as men; our State Constitution guarantees them the right to work in any line they choose (with a few exceptions).

"Civil service rules take no account of sex—only of efficiency.

"We women ask that we be given the same consideration as men; that marriage shall be no detriment to our holding our positions. If dismissal for this cause is followed generally, it will lead women to avoid marriage or to marry secretly. None of us desires this state of affairs.

"Many men over the country have suggested (unthinkingly) the dismissal of married women, but it is not the fair and square way of meeting this problem. I quote from an editorial appearing in the Washington, D. C., *Daily News* of October 2, 1931:

"'When all men and women who have sufficient income to live without working, generously turn their jobs over to the unemployed and retire to a life of golf, or bridge, or whatnot, it will be time to consider seriously the suggestion of Representative Knutson that married women with able-bodied husbands be discharged from Government service and all other positions.

"'This suggestion has been advanced frequently during the course of the depression and as frequently rejected by sensible employers.

"'If all married women workers who are without dependents were discharged today, that would not solve unemployment. Even if an unemployed person could be found capable to fill every position thus left vacant, hundreds of thousands would still remain without jobs.

"'Unemployment's problems can be solved only by giving every one, man and woman, an opportunity to work.'

"I respectfully call your attention to the above arguments and facts.

"UNA R. WINTER,
"Past President, Southern District Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Second Vice-President Business Women's Legislative Council of California."

MISS WINTER says in a letter to National Headquarters of the National Woman's Party: "I do not know whether this letter has succeeded in stemming the tide of dismissals of married women or not, but I feel better after saying these things in public and know that the many women who read them will realize more clearly what their rights are and perhaps be encouraged to stand more firmly for them.

"I am glad to state that two of the elected county officers, the assessor and the recorder, had previously refused to comply with the supervisors request in regard to dismissing their married women employees, stating as their reason that they had spent years in preparing these women for the responsible positions they held, and to dismiss them would hamper the efficient work of their departments."

In Martinsburg, West Virginia, a motion has been made to the State Board of Public Works by State Auditor Edgar C. Lawson which, if passed, will dismiss about 150 women from employment by the State House and give their jobs to men with families or to women who must support themselves.

The married women to be replaced, according to press reports, are those who have husbands already employed. In support of his motion, which he claims has

the endorsement of most members of the State Board, Lawson cites similar dismissals of married women by "some of the largest corporations in the country."

In Racine, Wisconsin, the City Council has asked the heads of the various city departments to investigate the number of municipal employees whose wives are employed. The investigation was proposed in a resolution presented by Alderman John Nelson.

Here the problem seems, according to press reports, to involve the dismissal of the men who have been rash enough to let their wives work. At any rate, the Racine *Times-Call* says:

"Other aldermen questioned the power of the city in the event it was discovered that the conditions exist.

"The city attorney said he doubted whether the city could force discharge of members of the police and fire departments in the event it was discovered that their wives are working.

"Alderman Wilke said it might not be fair to discharge a fireman or policeman who has put in long years of service merely because his wife was found to be employed."

Nothing was said, however, about the unfairness of dismissing a woman who has put in long years of service merely because her husband is found to be employed.

The Northern Pacific Railroad has now followed the lead of the Union Pacific, and the N. P.'s women employees must think twice before they take unto themselves husbands. After January 1 any woman employee who marries will automatically forfeit her position. In addition to this, the agreement reached between the railroad and the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks calls for an arbitrary six months' leave of absence for all married women employed by the road beginning January 1, if their husbands have jobs.

This agreement will affect more than 300 married women employed by the road.

In New Jersey, Chester I. Barnard, the State's director of emergency relief, has stated in almost so many words that married women don't need jobs and therefore should give them up to "more needy persons."

Barnard, in asking an immediate readjustment of job distribution, issued a statement as follows:

"There is an obvious maladjustment. The figures reported here indicate that from 10 to 15 per cent. of the able-to-work population of New Jersey is out of employment.

"I believe that there are more persons than that holding jobs who do not need them, such as married women and other workers who are holding down two or more jobs.

"I am further convinced that the employers of this State should awaken to the conditions and spread employment. This may be done in various ways. There now is unquestionably a faulty distribution of income due to an inequable distribution of work."

News from the Field

Students Debate Equal Rights

THE Washington College of Law of Washington, D. C., recently had several debates on phases of equality for men and women. One debate was on the question of whether the Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution should be adopted. Another subject was whether the statutory barring of women from jury service is unconstitutional. The debate instructor is Mrs. Rebekah Greathouse, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and chairman of the Lawyers' Council of the National Woman's Party. The Washington College of Law, it will be recalled, is coeducational and was founded by two pioneer women lawyers, Emma M. Gillett and Ellen Spencer Mussey, at a time when there was in the National Capital no law school for white persons open to women.

Flower Chairman

WHEN the National Council at its December meeting created the post of flower chairman and appointed Mrs. Karl M. Greene to that office they recognized a real need on the part of the organization and a real talent on the part of Mrs. Greene under whose direction Woman's Party conventions and conferences in Washington have so often blossomed into purple, white, and gold.

It has always been the nature of Woman's Party affairs to be beautiful pictorially, along with the intellectual and spiritual verities. Flowers help greatly. The purple, white, and gold of chrysanthemum, heather, and baby's breath, with the same triumphant colors in candles and banners, were part of Mrs. Greene's notable contribution to the beauty of the Biennial Convention. Now, flower chairman of the Party, she stands ready to advise as to the flowers which will best carry out the Woman's Party colors at any given season and in any given locality.

Chairmen of decorations, dinner and tea chairmen, and all others interested in knowing — for example — how to obtain flowers in purple, white and gold in Maine in January or in Arizona in August, are respectfully referred to Mrs. Greene.

New York Branch

ON Friday, December 11, was held the annual meeting of the executive committee, the Congressional chairmen, and the advisory committee of the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party. The following State officers were re-elected:

Chairman — Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic, Syracuse.

Vice-Chairmen—Grace Kay Long, Albany; Jane Norman Smith, New York; Doris Stevens, New York; Mary Rumsey Movius, Buffalo.

Secretary — Frances McDowell, Watkins.

Treasurer—Mrs. William White Knapp, Syracuse.

Executive Committee—Mrs. Joseph W. Dixon, New York; Mrs. R. M. Fotheringham, Buffalo; Mrs. Gard Foster, Syracuse; Florence McClintock, Cohoes; Rebecca Hourwich, New York; Mrs. John Jay White, New York.

The recommendation made by the New York City Executive Committee, to the effect that New York State Branch should concentrate on work for the Federal Equal Rights Amendment, and that such concentration should not prevent the Branch from going on record in favor of any Equal Rights legislation or from opposition to any discriminatory legislation against women before the New York Legislature, was unanimously passed. Active work for the Amendment will be commenced directly after the holidays, and it is hoped that Iris Calderhead Walker, one of the national organizers during the National Suffrage Campaign, will take charge of the campaign for the Amendment in New York City.

Arkansas Will Introduce Bill

THE Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs has endorsed a bill to amend the laws of that State on descent and distribution so as to remove discriminations against women. This bill was drawn for the Arkansas Branch of the National Woman's Party at the request of Mrs. Lenora Spencer of Hot Springs, Arkansas, State legislative chairman. Mrs. Minnie U. Fuller, general federation director for Arkansas and past president of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs, is urging the women of the State to familiarize themselves with the proposed bill. It will be introduced at the 1933 session.

ROOMS FOR VISITORS IN WASHINGTON

Headquarters of the National Woman's Party announces that several spacious, sunny rooms in Alva Belmont House at 144 B Street N. E., just a block from the Capitol, are available for the use of members of the National Woman's Party temporarily in Washington.

Rooms, $2.00

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